

# Faith

Kendrick Lamar

Cloud nine, Kendrick Lamar, uh  
I take a sip of Hennessy and then get pissy drunk  
I ain't a drinker, I'm a thinker, call it what you want  
But if you turn your back, know that you just missed your chance  
to witness the realest shit that's ever been told to man  
I found myself losing focus at a Sunday service  
Embarrassed so I started questioning God, what is my purpose?  
He say to live the way he did, that's all he want from me  
Spread the word and witness, he rose on the first Sunday  
I said alright, enthused that my Lord gave a listen  
I opened my bible and searched to be a better Christian  
and this from a person that never believed in religion  
But shit, my life is so fucked up man, I can't help but give in  
I'm giving testimonies to strangers I never met  
Hopped on the pulpit and told 'em how I was truly blessed  
Felt like I'm free from all my sins when the service was over  
Walked out the church, then got a call that my homie was murdered  
and lost my faith again

What am I gonna do? Gotta have faith  
Life is too much, understood? Where is your faith?  
Oh, faaaaaaith...  
All you need is the size of a mustard seed

Single black parent from Compton raising children of four  
That's four innocent bastards, cause papa they don't know  
Her day consists of working back and forth with babysitters  
Can't find no one to watch her kids so she pay her sister  
Her baby daddy ain't bout shit, that nigga ain't bout shit  
Spent his daughter milk just to cop a new outfit  
She pray to God every night hoping that he'll mature  
and maybe one day his kids, something that he'll live for  
Baby wanna go back to school but she need some help  
because it's hard tryna pay the bills when you're by yourself  
She thought about credit card scams till she heard a voice  
that said the Devil is a lie, make a better choice  
And so it's back to McDonald's and every month dealing  
with them crazy ass people at the county building  
Looked to the heavens and asked 'em to make a better way  
Then got a letter in the mail, lost her section 8  
Then lost her faith again

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Kendrick, I appreciate the opportunity to vent my nigga  
This about how faith works, yeah, murk it...  
I had dreams of holding a nine-milla to raise Killa  
Ask him why as my eyes fill up  
Each day it gets more realer, orangutans bang like gorillas  
It's jungle when the niggas ensue  
The rat's lurking, vulture's circling the serpents  
Cats lying through they teeth, my nigga didn't deserve it  
I flirted with the idea of caressing the steel  
to make karma come faster than she normally will

It's ill, to see my faith try and leave me  
It's so hard to get it, to get rid of it is easy  
I'm tryna reach cloud nine, that's what my niggas bout  
But it never rain in California 'less them pistols out  
Until then, my feet planted on the ground  
Shadowboxing my conscience till my faith start responding  
And if I get no answer, just know I tried  
I should have never looked into his son's eyes  
Ray Charles voice

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This for my people that stressing whenever times is hard  
Your mind's slipping, wondering is there really a God?  
Knowing you shouldn't think that way and tryna freeze your brain  
But whenever it's pain, that feeling forever remains  
We can't believe what we can't see and reality seems stronger than prayer  
cause you tried to change your life, and now you live in a wheelchair  
And your son was born with cancer and he live in urgent care  
at the tender age of twelve, and you feel that no one cares  
Searching for answers, that's human nature, you ain't in the wrong  
Just know, when you feeling that way his spirit's in the room  
I watched people I know pray and catch the Holy Ghost  
and wonder why I ain't never caught that feeling before  
Maybe they know him better, or I don't know no better  
But what I do know is that he's real and he lives forever  
So the next time you feel like your world's about to end  
I hope you studied because he's testing your faith again

I'd rather not live like there isn't a God  
than die and find out there really is, think about it